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Wednesday, June 5, 2013

# THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

## US judge accepts insanity plea over theater shooting



James Holmes

CENTENNIAL, Colorado (AFP) - A US judge on Tuesday accepted a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity by James Holmes, the man accused of shooting dead 12 people and wounding dozens in a Colorado theater last year.

Judge Carlos Samour accepted the plea after reading out a list of conditions, including that the 25-year-old

agree to undergo a court-ordered "sanity examination."

The tests, to determine if Holmes is indeed insane, will likely take several months. Prosecutors say complex preparations he allegedly made before the shootings show that he knew exactly what he was doing, and that it was wrong.

Holmes is accused of wounding another 70 people when he allegedly opened fire last July in a packed midnight screening of the Batman movie "The Dark Knight Rises" in the Colorado town of Aurora, outside Denver.

The trial judge initially entered a straight "not guilty" plea on Holmes's behalf in March, when lawyers for Holmes said they were not yet ready to enter a plea.

Continued on pg 6

## UN chief says new Syria report 'sickening and staggering'

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday called a new report on growing atrocities in Syria's civil war "sickening and staggering", his spokesman said.

A UN panel investigating human rights abuses said there was "reasonable grounds" to believe that chemical weapons had been used by President Bashar al-Assad's forces and opposition rebels.

The panel said the 26-month-old conflict has reached "new levels of brutality" with new suspected massacres, sieges and widespread rights violations.

UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said Ban had read the study and "frankly he finds the catalogue of atrocities in that report to be both

sickening and staggering."

Its findings highlighted the need for greater diplomatic efforts to end the civil war and for Syria to give UN experts unfettered access to investigate the use of chemical weapons, he added.

Syria has blocked the UN inquiry saying that it should only investigate government claims of rebels using chemical arms.

"The secretary general has been saying for a long time that there needs to be an enhanced and accelerated push for a political solution to this carnage," said Nesirky.

Top officials from the United States, Russia and United Nations are to meet in Geneva today in a bid to set a date and agenda for an international conference on Syria.

## Indication signs for tourist attractions University of Aruba presents study results to Minister Oduber



In the context of the improvement of Aruba's tourism product, the government, through the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF), approached the University of Aruba to undertake a study regarding the exploration and identification of strategic tourism attractions across the island. The study was to identify where and what strategic points needed identification with road signs.

Last Monday, the Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber and Director of Public Works, Jossy Figaroa, received a presentation of the results of the findings and their recommendations regarding road signs.

Aruba has many touristic attractions which are difficult to find because of the lack of proper road sign indications. Consequently, many of our

visitors never get to these sites and leave without seeing them.

The objective of the study was to indicate a process to identify primary tourism attractions and begin the first phase of preparing road signs to indicate these sites.

A group of students of the Faculty of Hospitality Management of the University did the research.

Continued on pg 5



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## Aruba Bank announces a Corporate Banking Breakfast Session focusing on Leadership and Management, with expert in the field Cor Storm

Aruba Bank revealed its next event, targeting commercial clients, offering an interesting session focused on Leadership and Management, facilitated by Cor Storm.

Aruba Bank's Breakfast Session will be taking place on Thursday June 20th, from 8am to 11am at the main branch, Aruba Bank Camacuri, in the Young Entrepreneur Center. The session will be presented in English.

Those who are interested in participating are kindly asked to register before Friday, June 14th, by sending an e-mail to: [leadershipmanagement@arubabank.com](mailto:leadershipmanagement@arubabank.com). Registration is free.

Aruba Bank is proud to introduce Cor Storm as its international expert in the fields of executive coaching, management support, change management, interim man-



agement and the implementation of business structures. Storm has been active on the island for the past 12 years as

a Management Coach. In collaboration with his wife, Vivian, he set up an

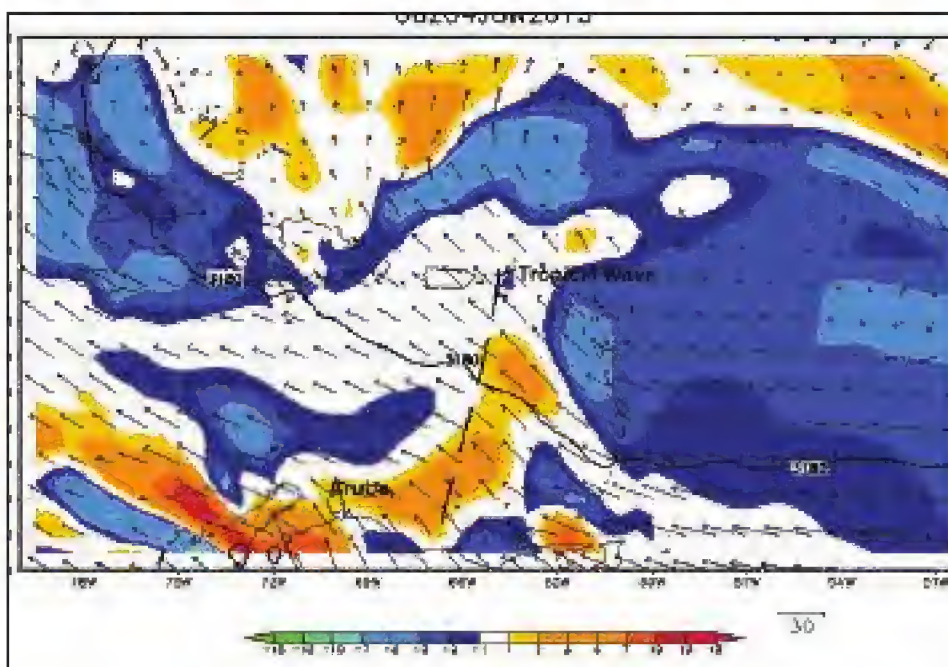
independent firm in the year 2000, and has since then advised different directors and different management teams in a variety of organizations, regarding their professional development.

Aside from personal guidance, Storm organizes management and leadership

courses with the objective of improving the level of performance of every person within the organization. The informative sessions facilitated by Cor Storm distinguish themselves by their level of content quality and continuity, delivered at a high international standard. Storm worked for many years as the interim director at various companies. Before he moved to Aruba, he handled several multinational companies, always in top executive positions.

Aruba Bank is organizing this session with complete confidence that Cor Storm's expertise will give clients the tools so that they can become more successful businesspersons. For organizational reasons, the number of seats are limited, so make sure you register before Friday, June 14th, to guarantee your spot in the much-anticipated Management and Leadership session, offered at no cost by Aruba Bank to its commercial clients.

## Special Wind Statement



A strong east-southeast wind-flow will influence Aruba today into Wednesday. For today expect wind gust up to 34 knots and on Wednesday up to 36 knots.

The windforce combined

with the east-southeasterly direction will make seas rough over open waters and other areas facing east-south-east.

Swimmers are urged to use caution also between

Baby-Beach up to Punta Brabo. Boaters can expect a strong surface wind drift current also between Baby-Beach up to Punta Brabo.

As already stated in our marine forecast, boaters should use caution over open waters.

Even though winds will become less, they will still have gusts above 30 knots through the rest of the week.

Normal wind conditions for June are 17 knots with gusts up to 32 knots.

**Precautionary measures:** Continue to use caution over open waters.

Also keep an sharp eye on loose objects, that can become flying debris.

**For more information**  
<http://www.meteo.aw>

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## Aura Casino: "Where players win"



Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand is the place to play right now! The cash prizes are flowing out and happy players are leaving with big smiles on their faces.

Recently, Mrs. Sandra Wetzel was one of those happy winners. Mrs. Wetzel found her lucky streak in the newly renovated Aura Casino "where players win."

She won the amount of \$1,000,- while playing on the brand new slot machine "Keno."

Another happy winner was Mr. Phillip Ramdial, who won a total amount of \$1,846,- at the Aura Casino while playing on the brand new slot machine "Wild Lions."

Mrs. Lynn Jones also decided to join the winners. Mrs. Koolman won a total amount of \$2,500,- playing the slotmachine "Double Jackpot."



And the winning just continues at the Aura Casino as Mrs. Laura Bartulovic also finds her lucky streak in the Casino "where players win".

Mrs. Bartulovic won a total amount of \$1,658,91 at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand while playing on the brand new slot machine "Quick Hits."

Mrs. Naomi Prada was also another happy winner after walking away with the nice sum of \$4,398, won on the slot machine "Indian Spirit."

Mrs. Tina Higgins was also a happy winner after playing on the slotmachine "The Last Emperor."

She won a total amount of \$1,307,20.

Cashing in was also Mrs. Donna Nuccio.

Mrs. Nuccio walked away with the pretty sum of \$1,580,14 after playing the slotmachine "Quick Hits."

Mr. Darren Dolivo also joined the winners. He won a total amount of \$2,000,-. This was Mr. Dolivo's second jackpot!

Mr. Martijn Jonkman also won at Aura Casino on the slotmachine "Quick Hits." Mr. Jonkman won \$1,611,34.

Staff & Management want to congratulate all the lucky winners and invite everyone to come and win at the Aura Casino at the Occidental Grand: "Where players win."

The center of Aruba has definitely shifted here at the Aura Casino, which happens to be smack-dab in the middle of all the action on Palm Beach.

Come and try your luck, maybe you can be one of Aura Casino's next lucky winners!

## Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima visit Germany



The Netherlands' new royal couple are in Germany for a first official visit in their new capacity, after the abdication of Queen Beatrix. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima were greeted by Chancellor Angela Merkel. The royal pair received a welcome from the chancellor in Berlin this week at the beginning of their two-day visit. They went on to a reception with full military honors and lunch with German President Joachim Gauck at the Bellevue Palace, before departing for appointments in the state of Hesse.

## Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



**Appetizers:** Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

**Entrees:** Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

Land & Sea  
Chicken Breast, Steak & Shrimps with rice and vegetables

Breaded Chicken Breast  
served with mushroom sauce, topped with cheese served with vegetables and stuffed potato

Twin Tenderloin or Chicken Parmesan  
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## LG Smith Steak and Chop house earns 2013 Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence



LG Smith Steak and Chop House located on the 2nd floor of the Renaissance Mall

visor receive this prestigious award.

To qualify for a Certificate of Excellence, businesses must maintain an overall rating of four or higher, out of a possible five, as reviewed by travelers on TripAdvisor, and must have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months. Satisfy your inner carnivore at L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House, offering Certified Angus Beef® and an extensive selection of international wines. Sit down to dinner in an inviting, comfortable atmosphere while our professional staff caters to your every need. L.G. Smith's is open nightly for dinner from 5:30 pm to 11pm and hosts live entertainment every Saturday at 6:30 pm, featuring popular saxophonist "El Prove." For happy hour gatherings or a relaxing nightcap, come to The Lounge with more live entertainment and delicious menu available until 6 am.

"LG Smith Steak and Chop House is pleased to receive a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence," said Zugheila Lindeborg of the Renaissance Resort Aruba. "We strive to offer our customers a memorable dining experience, and this accolade is evidence that our hard work is translating into positive reviews. We invite you to discover Aruba's very best steaks and a full menu boasting the finest dishes in the Caribbean."

recently announced that they were recipient of a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence award. The accolade, which honors hospitality excellence, is given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor. Only the top-performing 10 percent of businesses listed on TripAd-

## Saudi prince forks out 15 mn euros at Paris Disneyland

PARIS (AFP) - A Saudi prince spent 15 million euros (\$19.5 million) for three days of fun at Disneyland near Paris to celebrate his degree, sources familiar with the affair told AFP.

Prince Fahd al-Saud booked entire areas of the park over May 22 to 24 for his 60-odd guests. The festivities included tailor-made events involving "rare Disney characters," the sources said.

Special security was put in place for the prince, one of the park's top customers.

The theme park attracted 16 million visitors last year but Euro Disney has not made any profits since it opened 20 years ago.

In the six months to March, the group had a net loss of 89.1 million euros compared with a loss of 11.8 million euros in the same period last year.

## Finding the balance



On a regular basis, I often meet people that are fed up with the situation, where someone is arrested and with a very lenient punishment, in the shortest time, is back out on the street.

Up front I want to make it very clear that we have nothing to tell the judge about the punishment he hands out. This

is a prerogative of the judge and must stay this way too.

But a good judge has to have a "feeling" of what lives amongst the citizens.

Police officers are frustrated and in general the public is also.

So personally, simply said, I think that when a judge has this "feeling", he will do his job better.

And Parliament is not flawless either, they should pass tougher laws.

By: Roland W. Peterson.



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### University of Aruba presents study results to Minister Oduber

Continued from pg 1

The students were: Marisol Vrolijk, Ginger Werleman, Juan Carlos de la Cruz and Carl Quant.

Aruba will adhere to the International requirements of the UNWTO with respect to the color and design of these road signs. These signs will have a brown color with the Aruba logo, making them easy to distinguish from the blue signs which indicate routes to take. The brown signs will indicate how to get to tourism attractions.

This will be another project to be financed by the TPEF. It is expected that together with the department of Public Works the project will be prepared and executed timely.

## The Nissan Sentra 2013 has arrived on Aruba!

Whether you're looping for style, refinement, space, economy in gasoline or simply a technological cabin, you will find all this in the new Nissan Sentra 2013. The seventh generation of the Sentra is the most innovative design in the history of the past 30 years.

Sentra 2013 is an elegant model, modern, refined and reflects a "professional" character.

This makes its owner a bit more enthusiastic driving something more "premium" in this particular category. This model adopts Nissan's signature bold headlights and LED lights used as an accent. This is the only model in this type of sedan with standard LED accents both in front and behind.

Sentra 2013's sophisticated look continues with a superior interior design of high quality which you normally don't get in compact cars. Many drivers are astonished at the interior space, making this car comfortable for driver and passengers. The trunk compartment is



also very spacious.

Regarding technology, the Sentra 2013 comes equipped for an Ipod and Bluetooth. Other characteristics of the Sentra 2013 are its intelligent Key, keyless entry and Push Start Button.

The Sentra 2013 has a 1.8 liter, 4-cylinder engine and 6-speed manual transmission.

Topcar N.V. is the local exclusive agent for all Nissan and KIA autos on Aruba. Topcar provides her clients top rated service in parts,

sales and garage work.

Visit their showroom in the Caya Ernesto Petronia 21 or call 528-4203 or 582-3747. Or send an email to: [info@topcar-aruba](mailto:info@topcar-aruba) for more information. Like their facebook page: Nissan Aruba.





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## Chrysler rejects Jeep recall for alleged fire risk



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Chrysler rejected Tuesday a US safety agency's request to recall up to 2.7 million Jeep sport utility vehicles to fix a risk of engine fires that have left dozens dead.

The US automaker said it had received a letter from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration requesting it to recall Jeep Grand Cherokees in model years 1993-2004 and the Jeep Liberty from model years 2002-2007.

"The company does not agree with NHTSA's conclusions and does not intend to recall the vehicles cited in the investigation. The subject vehicles are safe and are not defective," Chrysler said in a statement.

In its letter to Chrysler dated June 3, the NHTSA said an investigation begun a year ago came to a "tentative" conclusion that the placement of the fuel tank behind the rear axle in the SUVs raises safety risks.

"This investigation revealed numerous fire-related deaths and injuries, fires that did not result in deaths and fuel leaks in rear impacts," the agency said.

The NHTSA said fatal rear-impact fires caused the death of 44 people in the Cherokee and seven in the Liberty.

Chrysler insisted the agency's conclusions were "based on an incomplete analysis of the underlying data."

"All of us remain committed to continue working with NHTSA to provide information confirming the safety of

these vehicles," Sergio Marchionne, chairman and chief executive of Chrysler, said in the statement.

The NHTSA's recommendation "does not constitute a formal finding or conclusion" that the vehicles have a safety-related defect, it said.

The NHTSA did not immediately comment Tuesday on Chrysler's refusal to recall the cars. But the automaker is required to provide the agency with a full explanation of its decision.

If the two sides still disagree on the issue, the NHTSA can hold a public hearing and, if it concludes that a safety-related defect does exist, it can order a recall.

## US judge accepts insanity plea over theater shooting

**Continued from pg 1**

At a new hearing in May, Holmes's court-appointed attorney Daniel King said he was willing to enter an insanity plea, but the judge said he would not yet formally accept the change of plea.

In court on Tuesday, the judge read out a five-page, 18-point advisement which defined the applicable test for insanity, and listed what was required of Holmes and his lawyers.

After reading the advisement, the judge asked Holmes if he had any questions, and the accused replied: "No."

The judge ordered Holmes to be sent to the Colorado State Mental Institute in Pueblo, Colorado. He will

## Merkel pledges aid as flood surge heads for Germany

PASSAU, Germany (AFP) - Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged 100 million euros in emergency aid for flood-ravaged areas on Tuesday, as surging waters that have claimed at least 11 lives and forced tens of thousands of evacuations across central Europe bore down toward Germany.

Heavy rains have turned vast regions into lakes, cut off villages, severed transport links and left historic city centres under muddy brown water. The inundations have also brought back dark memories of devastating floods that killed dozens 11 years ago.

The largest volumes of floodwater have travelled down two of Europe's great river systems: the Danube, which runs from Germany through Austria and central Europe into the Black Sea, and the Elbe, which flows from the Czech Republic through Germany into the North Sea.

Merkel travelled by helicopter over the flood zone and visited three impacted areas, starting in Passau, Bavaria, where the Danube meets two other rivers and peaked late Monday at 12.9



**German Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) and Passau Mayor Juergen Dupper (R) tour the south-eastern Bavarian flooded centre of Passau, about 200 km (124 miles) north-east of Munich June 4, 2013.**

metres (42 feet), the highest level since 1501.

The chancellor vowed the emergency cash would be disbursed in an unbureaucratic way because "what's important now is that the aid quickly reaches the people". The property damage in Passau alone was estimated at 20 million euros (\$26 million) by the city mayor.

Some people have paddled canoes down flooded streets in Passau, where drinking water, power and phone services were cut. Elsewhere stranded residents

were evacuated from their soggy homes by rescue personnel using inflatable boats.

"The damage and the loss of income is a long-term matter. And that's why our support will not cease," said Merkel, who faces an election in less than four months and was later photographed helping fill sandbags.

Across the region, the official death toll rose to 11 as Czech emergency services recovered the body of a man from the swollen Male Labe river in the northern Krkonose mountain range, near the border with Poland.

The deluge killed seven others in the Czech Republic, including a woman who was hit by an uprooted tree as she walked her dog. Two others died in Austria and one in Switzerland. Several more people were missing.

Across much of the swamped region, rail, road and river traffic links were cut, crops destroyed, schools and factories closed and hospitals evacuated.

In Prague, the flood water hit its highest level on Tuesday after inundating the city centre, displacing more than 8,000 people and forcing the night-time evacuation of the city's zoo.

The mass of water was headed downstream to Germany, where cities on the Elbe, including Dresden and Magdeburg, scrambled to prepare for potentially massive floods.



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### International News

## Queen Elizabeth II marks coronation 60th anniversary



LONDON (AFP) - Queen Elizabeth II celebrated the 60th anniversary of her coronation yesterday by returning to Westminster Abbey for a special service, with the glittering solid gold crown and the holy oil used to anoint her taking centre stage.

Some 2,200 guests including all the senior royals crammed into the historic London church for the service which reflected her crowning on June 2, 1953 -- and lifetime of duty ever since.

The 87-year-old monarch was joined on the front row by Prince William and his heavily pregnant wife Catherine, who sat with her hands clasped under her baby bump.

The sovereign, in an oyster-coloured outfit by Angela Kelly, was accompanied by her

husband Prince Philip, 91, who was at her side despite skipping a public engagement on Monday due to ill health.

St Edward's Crown, inlaid with precious stones, was displayed on the high altar after leaving the Tower of London for the first time since it was used for the queen's coronation six decades ago.

The crown, made for the coronation of England's king Charles II in 1661, was displayed alongside the Ampulla -- the gold, eagle-shaped flask containing the holy anointing oil.

The clear glass bottle was processed in by representatives of British society -- which included two schoolchildren, a Girl Guide and a school crossing patrol 'lollipop lady' in her fluorescent yellow uniform.

## Spanish region starts serving meals to needy students

MADRID (AFP) - Schools in Spain's southern Andalucia region, which has the country's highest jobless rate, have started providing free breakfasts and snacks to around 11,000 needy students.

## Outrage as Egypt court sentences 43 NGO workers

CAIRO (AFP) - A Cairo court on Tuesday sentenced 43 Egyptian and foreign NGO workers to jail terms ranging from one to five years for working illegally, causing outrage abroad and raising fears for the future of civil society work.

The sentences follow trials which came in the wake of raids in 2011 on the offices of foreign NGOs, many which had operated without licences under ousted president Hosni Mubarak but which the new authorities deemed were receiving funds illicitly.

The criminal court sentenced 27 defendants in absentia to five years.

Five defendants who were present in the country, including one American, were sentenced to two years behind bars and ordered to pay a fine of 1,000 Egyptian pounds (almost \$145.)

The remaining 11 were each given one-year suspended sentences.

The court also ordered the permanent closure of the branches of the NGOs where the staffers worked.

The verdict caused an outcry abroad, with Germany expressing anger.

The verdict comes as Egypt debates a newly proposed law regulating NGOs that has been sharply criticised by civil society groups.

The initiative is part of a package of measures approved by the regional government in Seville, run by the Socialist Party and the far-left United Left, on April 30 "to fight against social exclusion".

Under the plan some 11,000 minors began on Monday getting milk and fruit for breakfast and a sandwich as an afternoon snack.

The region already provided a free lunch to around 70,000 needy children.

Once the first phase of the programme, which has a budget of 2.0 million euros (\$2.6 million), is fully implemented some 50,000 minors

will receive breakfast and an afternoon snack.

Andalucia, which is home to around 8.5 million people, making it Spain's most populous region, has been especially hard-hit by the economic downturn.

Its unemployment rate stands at 36 percent, above the national average of 27.2 percent.

In April the regional government approved a law that allows it to expropriate properties from which people are about to be evicted for up to three years to allow them to continue to live there.

## Enjoy our much celebrated 3-Course Dinner Special!

### Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

### Entrée

- Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- Filet Mignon\* 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast

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- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
- Coffee / Tea

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## Health & Living

### Germ-killing soaps cut hospital infection rates



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A policy of regularly washing every patient in the intensive care unit with antimicrobial cloths helped cut down on dangerous blood infections by 44 percent, a US study said.

The strategy was better at cutting back potentially lethal methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections than screening and isolating infected patients, said the report in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The randomized study compared methods at 43 hospitals, including 74 ICUs and 74,256 patients.

The winning practice, known as "universal decolonization," involves giving patients a nasal dose of the antibiotic mupirocin twice daily for five days, and bathing patients daily with cloths covered in antimicrobial chlorhexidine for the entire ICU stay.

"Universal decolonization of patients in the ICU was the most effective strategy, significantly reducing MRSA-positive clinical cultures by 37 percent and bloodstream infections from any pathogen by 44 percent," said the study.

The method works by reducing the number of pathogens on the skin, "thus protecting patients in the ICU from their own microbiota during a period of heightened vulnerability to infection," said the study.

Also, by cutting back on the number of microbes, there were fewer opportunities for patient-to-patient spread of harmful pathogens.

Another key to the strategy was it began on the first day in the ICU, eliminating the waiting involved with trying to isolate patients who may be infected.

Washing all ICU patients this way could also cut down on unnecessary surveillance tests and do away with precautions over contacting patients who test positive, which can interfere with care, the researchers said.

However, some prior research has pointed to the possibility that widespread use of chlorhexidine and mupirocin could lead to MRSA resistance, so such efforts would need to be monitored carefully.

MRSA is priority target among health care associated infections because of its prevalence, virulence and multidrug resistant profile, said the study.

### Hong Kong man finds he is a woman after doctor visit

HONG KONG (AFP) - A 66-year-old who lived his whole life as a man was given a surprising diagnosis after visiting the doctor in Hong Kong with a swollen abdomen -- he was a woman.

Doctors realised the patient was female after they found the swelling came from a large cyst on an ovary, the Hong Kong Medical Journal reported.

The condition was the result of two rare genetic disorders.

The subject had Turner syndrome, which affects girls and women and results from a problem with the chromosomes, with characteristics including infertility and short stature.

But he also had congenital adrenal hyperplasia, increasing male hormones and making the patient, who had a beard and a "micropenis", appear like a man.

The 1.37 meters (4.5 feet) tall patient, who grew up as an orphan, was found to have no testes, a history of urinary leakage since childhood, and stopped growing after puberty at the age of 10.

The doctors said there have been only six cases where both genetic disorders have been reported in medical literature. Turner Syndrome on its own affects only one in 2,500 to 3,000 females.

The Vietnam-born Chinese patient decided to continue "perceiving himself as having a male gender with the possible need of testosterone replacement," according to the journal.

Most men have a X and a Y chromosome and most women have a pair of X chromosomes. But people with Turner Syndrome tend to have only one X chromosome or are missing part of their second X chromosome.

### Simple vinegar test cuts cervical cancer deaths: study

CHICAGO (AFP) - A simple vinegar test could prevent 73,000 deaths from cervical cancer worldwide each year, the authors of a large-scale study of women in India said.

Wealthy countries have managed to reduce cervical cancer deaths by 80 percent thanks to the widespread use of regular Pap smears.

But cervical cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death among women in India and many other developing countries lacking the money, doctors, nurses or laboratories for widespread screening.

The vinegar test, while not perfect, offers a solution to that problem.

A primary health care worker swabs the woman's

cervix with vinegar, which causes pre-cancerous tumors to turn white. The results are known a minute later when a bright light is used to visually inspect the cervix.

Aside from the cost savings, the instantaneous results are a major advantage for women in rural areas who might otherwise have to travel for hours to see a doctor.

The randomized study of 150,000 women over 15 years found that the vinegar test was able to reduce cervical cancer deaths by 31 percent.

The incidence of cervical cancer was essentially the same among the women who were screened every other year and those who were simply

taught how to watch for warning signs.

Early detection is critical in successfully treating the disease.

Health officials in the state of Maharashtra, where the study was conducted, are preparing to train primary health care workers to provide the vinegar screening to all women aged 35 to 64 in the state.

The researchers are also working with national health officials to make the screening available throughout the country.

The Indian government also plans to reach out to other low to moderate income countries to share the results and offer training resources.



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## Sci-Tech

# NATO to set up cyber-defence rapid reaction teams

BRUSSELS (AFP) - NATO defence ministers agreed Tuesday to set up rapid reaction teams to help defend the military alliance against a growing number of cyber-attacks, many of them blamed on China.

"In the progress report we have adopted today, we agreed to establish rapid reaction teams that can help protect NATO's own systems," alliance head Anders Fogh Rasmussen said.

This "cyber-defence capability should be fully operational by the autumn," Rasmussen told a press conference.

"This is a first phase. A second phase would be to look into how the alliance can respond to requests from Allies who come under cyber-attack," he said.

Rasmussen stressed that cyber-security -- the defence of the electronics information systems at the heart of modern warfare -- remained the responsibility of its 28 member states.

The cyber-security issue is top of the agenda for a two-day defence ministers' meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, attending his first NATO meeting since taking office, on Saturday accused China of waging cyber-espionage against the US after an American report found evidence of a broad Chinese spying campaign against top US defence contractors and government agencies.



TAIPEI (AFP) - A staff displays a NeuroSky's new products during the 2013 Computex in Taipei on June 4, 2013. Computex is Asia's biggest annual IT trade fair, which opened on June 4.



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## To save corals, save the forests: study

PARIS (AFP) - Conservationists fighting to save coastal coral reefs should think first about combatting local deforestation rather than attacking the wider peril of global warming, suggests an unusual study published on Tuesday.

Sediment washed downriver by tree-depleted land can cripple near-shore corals, as it clouds the water and diminishes the light on which coral communities depend.

When the sediment sinks to the seabed, it smothers the corals, forcing them to increase energy expenditure to survive, boosting the risk of "bleaching" and die-out.

A team led by Joseph Mana of Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, carried out a computer simulation of four river systems in Madagascar whose outflows have an impact on local coral ecosystems.

By 2090, global warming



Madagascar

will have a big effect on these watersheds, reducing rainfall and as a result diminishing the deposit of sediment into the sea, they found.

"However, these climate change-driven declines are outweighed by the impact of deforestation," says their paper.

Deforestation in Madagascar has boosted river sediment fivefold since human settlement expanded there, it calculates.

Sediment volumes could be reduced by between 19 and 68 percent if between 10 and 50 percent of natural forest is restored, it says.

Planting new forests "offers promise for sustainable environmental outcomes in the face of climate change in one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots," it says.

Scientists say warmer seas, along with overfishing and habitat loss, are major perils

for corals, on which hundreds of millions of people depend for their livelihoods.

A quarter of reef-building corals face extinction, according to the "Red List" of threatened species compiled by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

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## COMICS

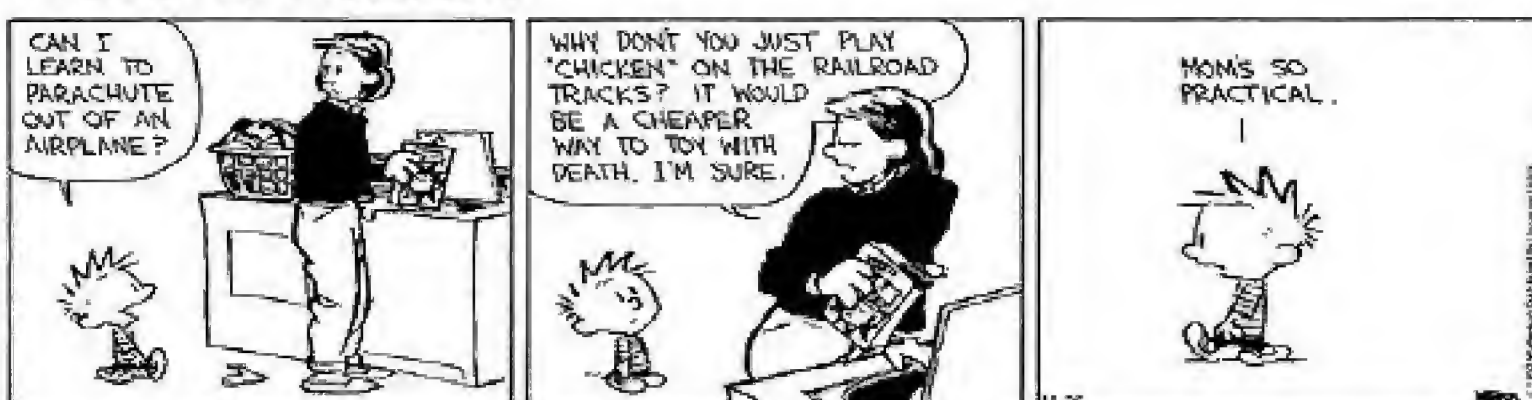
## PICKLES



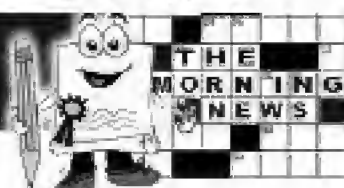
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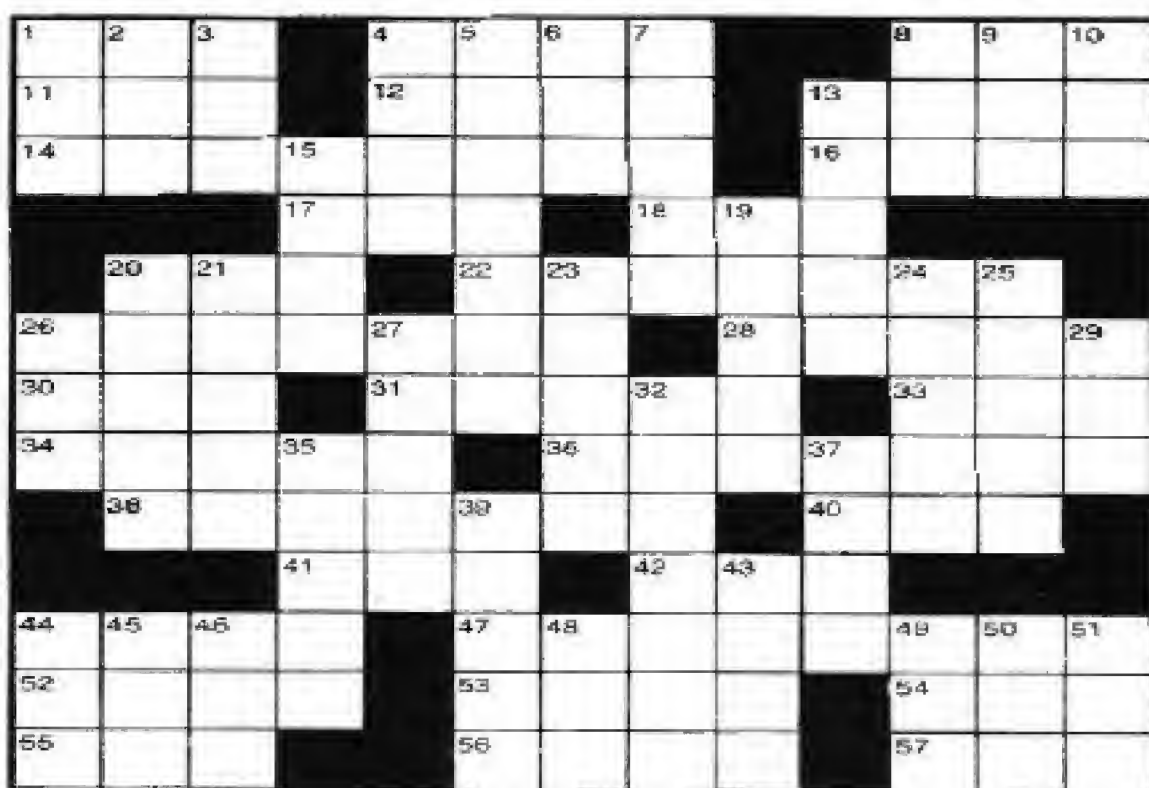
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## ACROSS

1. Lackland, for one (abbr.)
4. Pull's opposite
8. Wacky fellow
11. Shad product
12. Give one's approval
13. Quote
14. Come to an end
16. Resting
17. IM provider
18. League for the Eagles (abbr.)
20. "\_\_\_ and
22. Military shoulder decoration
26. Woven fabric
28. Clinging wrap
30. Kitty doc
31. Low tides
33. Be sorry
34. Embellish
36. Actor Burr
38. Smoothly
40. Illustrations
41. \_\_\_ Lanka
42. Me (Fr.)
44. Vineyard's output
47. Least dirty
52. Tie together
53. Clark of "Superman"
54. '30s relief

## DOWN

1. Circle part
2. Rock's \_\_\_ Fighters
3. Affleck of "Daredevil"
4. Ralph Lauren line
5. Luau instrument
6. Blue
7. "Laughing" predator
8. Penpoint
9. Shoshonean
10. Danson of
13. \_\_\_ spade a spade (2 wds.)
15. Word of resignation
19. Picky
20. Bamboolike grasses
21. Praise
23. Oyster gem
24. Baseball mistake
25. Tease unceasingly
26. Dam-building agcy.
27. Not outer
29. Beatty or Buntline
32. Loan installment
35. Trip-meter button
37. Leading
39. Soccer maneuvers
43. Quaker grains
44. Yr. divisions
45. "Message \_\_\_ Bottle" (2 wds.)
46. Forthwith
48. Island wreath
49. Opp. of WSW
50. Mrs., in Madrid
51. Driveway coating



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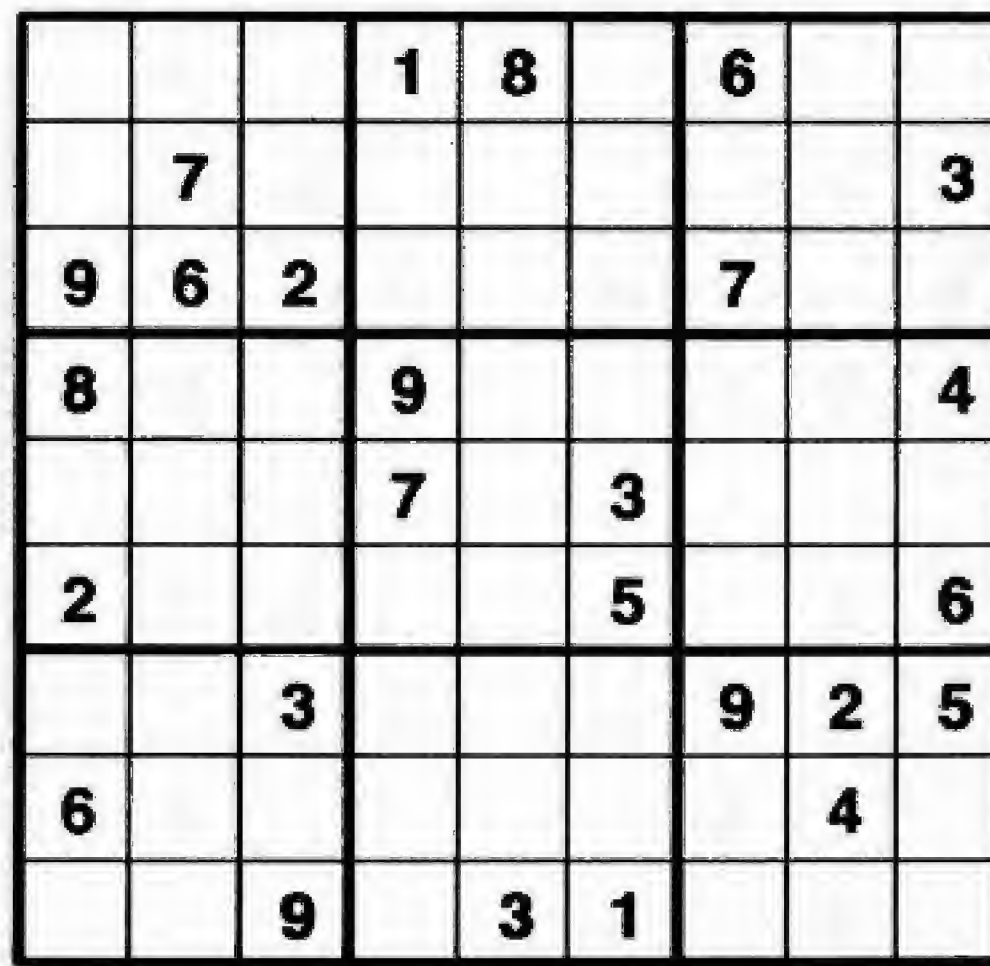
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# Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	9	8	1	5	9	6	2	3
1	7	6	8	2	3	9	5	4
5	2	9	3	7	4	1	6	8
9	5	1	5	7	8	2	6	3
8	3	2	6	1	4	9	7	5
7	1	5	9	2	6	1	8	3
3	1	2	7	5	6	2	9	8
6	9	7	2	8	9	8	2	1
2	6	9	4	8	1	7	5	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



## FINANCE

## Obama, Chilean President, push Pacific trade pact

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama and Chilean President Sebastian Pinera built new momentum behind a proposed pan-Pacific mega trade pact Tuesday during talks at the White House.

Obama billed the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which would encompass 40 percent of the global economy, as a "high-standard, high-level trade agreement" uniting the "most dynamic and fastest-growing region of the world."

"Chile has been an excellent partner with us in trying to bring this multilateral trade agreement to a close," Obama said.

Delegations from Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam hope to conclude the pact before the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bali in October.

Pinera said Chile, which already has a bilateral trade deal with the United States, was "fully committed" to the TPP and hoped to get it concluded by the deadline.

Obama has championed the TPP as a way to boost the US economy through trade and to support his signature "rebalancing" of US foreign and mil-

itary policy towards Asia.

He has called for the deal to include strong labor rights and environmental standards but the proposed deal is opposed by some agricultural groups representing rice farmers in Japan and dairy farmers in North America.

Pinera is on an international tour that will also take him to El Salvador and Panama. Last week he was in Canada.

Obama also offered praise for businessman Pinera's leadership, saying his record in lifting people out of poverty and bolstering the economy had made his South American nation a world leader.

## Oil prices rebound in line with world markets

LONDON (AFP) - Global oil prices rebounded on Tuesday, reversing earlier losses on the back of buoyant global stock markets, while traders also shrugged off Chinese demand concerns and awaited key US data, analysts said.

In late afternoon deals in London, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in July jumped \$1.23 to \$103.27 per barrel.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) light sweet crude for July, gained 65 cents to \$94.10 a barrel.

Wall Street equities extended their rally in early trade on Tuesday, shrugging off a rise in the US trade deficit to follow European and Japanese shares higher, as stock market investors also awaited fresh economic data.

At the same time, traders are eagerly awaiting the US government's weekly snapshot of energy inventories on Wednesday, followed by the all-important non-farm payrolls (NFP) report on Friday.

The NFP figures are likely to provide clues on whether the Federal Reserve will maintain its economic stimulus measures. Other US data due this week will include industrial output numbers and the Fed's outlook on economic conditions.

Fed chairman Ben Bernanke had spooked markets last month when he said that the US central bank could taper or scale back its stimulus measures sooner rather than later, if economic conditions improved.

In earlier Asian trading, world oil prices had fallen on renewed concern over weakening demand from China, which is the world's biggest energy consuming nation.

Global banking giant HSBC said Monday its reading of China's manufacturing activity shrank more than first reported in May, confirming the first contraction in seven months.

HSBC's final purchasing managers' index (PMI) reading for May came in at 49.2, the lowest for eight months and worse than the preliminary 49.6 announced on May 23. A reading below 50 indicates contraction in the sector.

The softer China numbers coincided with data showing that US manufacturing activity also contracted slightly in May, continuing a slowdown tied both to slower government spending and weaker growth abroad.

The Institute for Supply Management purchasing managers' index for May fell to 49.0, one point below the line between growth and contraction, compared with a positive 50.7 in April.

The slowdown comes amid record-high crude inventories in the United States which puts downward pressure on prices.



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## AB InBev says completes merger with Mexican brewer Modelo

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Anheuser-Busch InBev said Tuesday it had completed its \$20.1-billion (15.4-billion-euro) merger with Mexican brewer Grupo Modelo that will further strengthen its top position in the global beer industry.

The maker of Budweiser, Beck's and Stella Artois said the merger would help unlock "significant growth potential that Modelo brands such as Corona have globally..."

It added "there will also be opportunities to introduce AB InBev brands through Modelo's distribution network".

In order to secure the approval of US regulators of the merger announced last year, the companies had to divest Modelo's entire US business, including the licenses for Corona beer and other brands in the United States.

AB InBev now holds five of the top six most valuable beer brands in the world and produce roughly 400 million hectoliters of beer annually.

AB InBev previously held a 50 percent stake in Modelo, and following an offer at \$9.15 per share had increased its stake in the Mexican brewer to 95 percent.

## Bill Gates backs social network for researchers

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Microsoft co-founder turned philanthropist Bill Gates on Tuesday joined backers of a social network aimed at promoting scientific breakthroughs such as life-saving medicines.

Gates and others pumped \$35 million into Berlin-based ResearchGate, which was started five years ago by three friends intent on making it easier for researchers to collaborate and share information.

"Our goal is to free knowledge from the ivory tower, to digitalize it and make it accessible for everyone in order to accelerate scientific progress," said ResearchGate co-founder and chief Ijad Madisch.

The roster of ResearchGate investors includes Founders Fund and Benchmark in Silicon Valley.

Madisch, a virologist and computer scientist, was working on research in Boston when he was vexed by the likelihood that others had wasted money and time doing the same failed experiments that he was trying.

People must have email addresses at scientific institutions to join ResearchGate, which has grown to about 2.9 million members in 193 countries, the top being Germany, India, Britain, and the United States.

Triumphs in the online community include a Nigerian scientist seeking the cause of a girl's death in Africa sharing data with a professor in Italy who then discovered that a dangerous yeast had mutated from plants to humans.

This third round of funding will enable ResearchGate to beef up its platform for publishing results and to build software tools for members, according to Madisch.

ResearchGate is looking into the potential to make money with job boards where companies or schools can recruit talent, and with advertising focused on equipment needed for experiments.

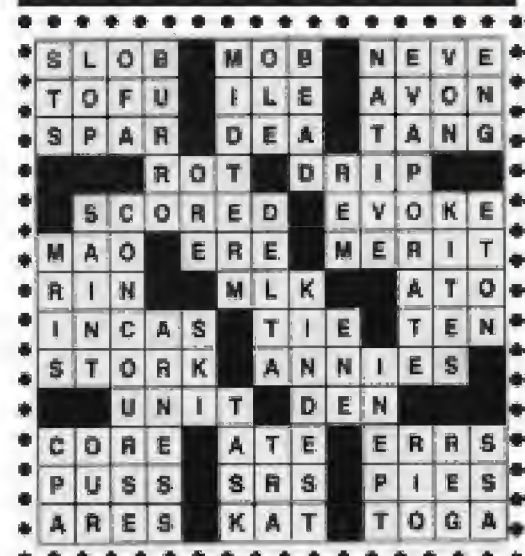
Data at ResearchGate was to remain free and open.

"I call it open science," Madisch said. "This will benefit all of us."



MARSEILLE (AFP) - Photo shows a view of the CMA CGM Jules Verne, the world's largest container ship sailing under the French flag, during the inauguration of the ship in Marseille, southern France on June 4, 2013.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





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## Will Smith film 'After Earth' crashes at US box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "Fast & Furious 6" remained atop the North America box office for a second weekend, figures showed Monday, but the big story was the spectacular flop for Will Smith's "After Earth."

The post-apocalyptic sci-fi adventure, co-starring the Hollywood veteran's son Jaden, made a less-than-stellar \$27.5 million to be pushed into third place, behind crime-caper "Now You See Me."

Industry journal Variety called the opening weekend a "crash landing," saying its makers must now pin hopes on the film doing well internationally, where it opens mostly in the next week or two.

The movie was critically panned even before its weekend release, earning a dismal 12 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes, which called it a "dull, ploddingly paced exercise in sentimental sci-fi."

But its dismal debut in theaters is a shock, since every one of Smith's summer event movies has opened at the top of the box office, from "Independence Day" to the "Men in Black" movies.

The 44-year-old is the only actor to have eight films in a row make more than \$100 million at the US box office and 10 consecutive films over \$150 million internationally, it noted.

Back at the top of the box office, "Fast and Furious 6," the action sequel starring Vin Diesel and Michelle Rodriguez, stayed in pole position with \$35.2 million, ahead of \$29.3 million for "Now You See Me."

## Pork takeover shows China hunger for foreign feasts

BEIJING (AFP) - A Chinese firm's multi-billion-dollar takeover of the biggest name in US pork is the latest example of the country's global business ambitions, analysts say -- and the need to satisfy domestic demand for quality.

In what will be the biggest Chinese corporate purchase ever in the United States if approved, meat processor Shuanghui International said last week it was buying Smithfield Foods in a deal that valued the US company at \$7.1 billion.

That announcement came just two days after Chinese conglomerate Fosun -- the single largest shareholder in Club Med -- said it was making a joint bid for the French holiday group.

Chinese companies are increasingly moving into foreign waters. Direct investment overseas in non-financial sectors surged 28.6 percent in 2012 to \$77.22 billion, spread across 141 countries and regions.

Once focused on securing resources such as oil, gas and commodities essential to fuel China's rise to become the world's second-biggest economy, the trend now is more complex.

"Chinese companies' overseas acquisitions indicate that China is redefining its position in the global economy," shifting up the value chain from being the workshop of the world, Li Guoxue, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said in an email.

"China's rising global influence has also facilitated overseas investment of Chinese



companies," he added.

It is also the natural result of firms getting bigger, said Bala Ramasamy, professor of economics at the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) in Shanghai.

But Chinese acquisitions can face political opposition overseas.

China's biggest overseas takeover came last year with the \$15.1 billion purchase of Canadian oil and gas giant Nexen by Chinese state-owned energy behemoth CNOOC.

After initial resistance Ottawa approved the landmark deal in the end.

CNOOC had been forced to withdraw a bid for US oil and gas producer Unocal in 2005 due to national security concerns in Washington.

Despite decades of capitalist reforms, numerous Chinese companies remain either majority state-owned or maintain close government and Communist Party links. Their opacity and doubts over corporate

governance have contributed to suspicions.

US authorities have also expressed fears over Chinese technology companies Huawei and ZTE, and the state-run China Daily newspaper voiced concern that the Smithfield deal could face a rocky road.

"Even the conspicuous absence of national security factors in this friendly takeover can hardly guarantee that US protectionists will not poke their nose into it," the paper said in an editorial Friday.

But Jarod Ji, an analyst at Beijing-based Zero2IPO Research Center, said that while such "political risk" was a concern for China's companies looking abroad, the trend would continue.

Shaun Rein, managing director of China Market Research Group, identified two key drivers behind the phenomenon: Chinese companies' increasing appetite to be world players, combined with the pressures of a less robust do-

mestic economy.

"A lot of Chinese companies have the ambition to become global brands," he said, giving Fosun as an example. "They're very aggressive, very ambitious and they want to grow fast."

"They're looking at getting access to the American and European markets in order to shield themselves from what is definitely a slowing Chinese economy," he added.

China turned in its weakest economic performance in 13 years in 2012, with growth sliding to 7.8 percent for the year.

Acquisitions of foreign brands and technology can also pay important dividends domestically with Chinese consumers fed up by food, quality and safety scandals.

Earlier this year, China was shocked by the spectacle of more than 16,000 dead pigs recovered from parts of Shanghai's main river, one of a long line of food controversies.





## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold

Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further en-

hance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas, 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

## Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine.

### The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom,

Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted

Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes, all quite yummy



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily, from 11:00 am to 11:00pm,

Tel: 5860606 and email: [saus.arubancuisine@live.com](mailto:saus.arubancuisine@live.com), offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!



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## Athletics: Bolt ready to kick-start Euro season in Rome



ROME (AFP) - Six-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt said he is ready to put his injury woes behind him when he lines up at the Rome Golden Gala for his first appearance of the year in Europe on Thursday. Bolt's start to the season has been hampered by hamstring problems and, a month ago, American rival Justin Gatlin posted an impressive time of 9.97sec at the opening Diamond League event of the season in Doha. Meanwhile, Bolt was clocking a comparatively mediocre time of 10.09sec for the 100 metres at the Cayman Invitational, way behind his world record time of 9.58. But, ahead of his European debut at Rome's Stadio Olimpico on Thursday, the 26-year-old Jamaican said he is now up to competition speed.

## Tennis: Sweet-toothed Serena back in semis

PARIS (AFP) - World number one Serena Williams revealed a sweet-toothed recipe is aiding her quest for a first French Open crown in 11 years after reaching the semi-finals Tuesday with a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 win over unseeded Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Her secret? Chocolate and macaroons.

The 31-year-old laughed as she contemplated a first appearance in the last four at Roland Garros since 2003, since when she has endured four quarter-final exits and also a first round humiliation 12 months ago.

Asked the reason behind her renaissance on the slow red

clay she said: "I guess (I'm) pretty fit. I had some chocolate yesterday. And the day before -- and the day before and the day before."

Victory extended Williams' winning streak to 29 matches as she moved into a semi-final clash against Italian fifth seed Sara Errani, the runner-up to Maria Sharapova last year.

Williams, who had dropped just 10 games in reaching the last-eight, admitted she found the wind tricky, but she still found her game quickly with breaks in the second and sixth games, having sealed the opener with an ace on the Suzanne Lenglen court.

## Oscar Pistorius hearing postponed to August

PRETORIA (AFP) - A South African court on Tuesday postponed the pre-trial hearing of Oscar Pistorius to August 19 to allow police to wrap up their probe into his Valentine's Day shooting of model girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

Looking tense and somber in a grey suit and blue shirt and tie, the 26-year-old Paralympian dubbed the "Blade Runner" briefly appeared in court for the first time since being released on bail over the murder that shattered his hero image.

In a macabre coincidence, his next court appearance will fall on the same day that his slain lover would have turned 30.

The hearing inside the packed courtroom lasted only a few minutes as prosecutors sought, and defence agreed to, a postponement to allow police to wrap up their investigation.

Pistorius is accused of murdering Steenkamp in the early hours of Valentine's Day at his upmarket home in the South African capital.

Prosecutors have charged the star sprinter with premeditated murder. Conviction carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

He has lost lucrative contracts with US sportswear giant Nike and French cosmetics firm Clarins, among others, and has reportedly also been fined about one million rand for undeclared taxes.

A single judge will eventually hear the murder trial, as South Africa does not have a jury system.

## SPORTS

## Tennis: Come in number 5 - Ferrer bides time as Tsonga looms



PARIS (AFP) - World number five David Ferrer. It seems a faintly underwhelming epithet which should speak volumes in an era of men's tennis dominated by four men.

But the softly spoken Spaniard says he shouldn't be underestimated after reaching the semi-finals at the French Open for a second straight year particularly with Roger Federer now out, courtesy of next opponent Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, while Andy Murray scratched through injury.

Ferrer may not have the cachet of defending champion Rafael Nadal or top seed Novak Djokovic, the other members of the top four who currently dominate the game.

Yet he does have the advantage of having won all five of his encounters in Paris in straight sets, spending just nine hours on court, keeping him ultra-fresh.

The 31-year-old, beaten in last year's semi-finals by Nadal, stands second only to the seven-time champion on the Spanish all-time list of Grand Slam match winners -- Tuesday's thrashing of another Spaniard, Tommy Robredo, for the loss of just four games being his 102nd Slam singles success.

Even so, sixth seed Tsonga's 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 rout of Federer

suggests that Ferrer will find once again that the semi marks his Roland Garros high watermark.

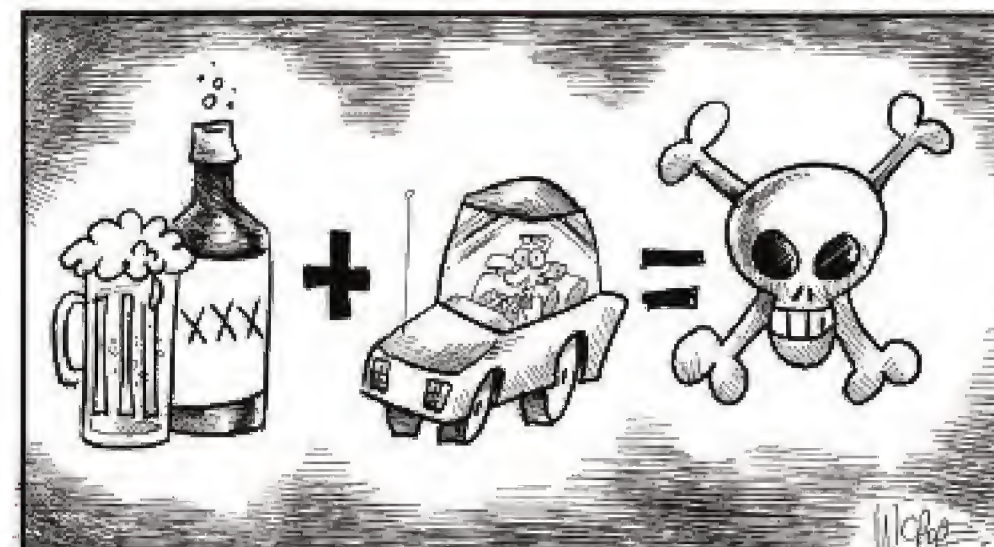
Yet Tsonga will beware a man who leads him 2-1 in their career series to date, even if a raucous Parisian crowd will be rooting for the Frenchman.

Among the Spanish legion of claycourtiers Ferrer could never lay claim to the 'swash-buckling' adjective which so defines Nadal.


Yet if he ploughs an unspectacular furrow he did land seven titles last season to finish in the world top ten for a fourth time, while he earlier this year landed his 20th singles title in Buenos Aires for his tenth triumph on clay.

Ferrer beat his French rival, who towers fully 13 centimetres (five inches) over him, in Rome in 2010 and again on hardcourt in Paris last autumn on his way to the title but lost in the round of 16 at 2011 Wimbledon.

Three years older than 28-year-old Tsonga, who will be competing in his first Roland Garros semi-final - the Frenchman was Australian Open runner-up five years ago - Ferrer says the veterans are increasingly having their day with 30 no longer seen as their basic sell-by date.







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## Paralympics: No action against van der Vorst - IPC



PARIS (AFP) - The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) said on Tuesday that it would take no action against Dutch hand-cyclist Monique van der Vorst for misrepresenting her impairment.

Van der Vorst, now 28, used a wheelchair for nearly 13 years after her left leg was paralysed and her right knee stopped working properly.

She won silver in the hand-cycling time-trial and road race at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing but, two years later, recovered the use of her legs following a road accident.

In 2011, she signed a professional contract with Dutch cycling team Rabobank.

The IPC began an investigation following reports of her recovery to determine whether she had intentionally misrepresented her impairment during her career.

In a statement, IPC medical and scientific director Peter Van de Vliet said they spent more than 12 months gathering evidence about the case. Van der Vorst herself had provided a "comprehensive and clear picture of her story", he added.

"Over the course of her Paralympic career, Monique presented for classification on several occasions with supportive medical evidence of muscular dystrophy and pain-related clinical manifestation," he said on paralympic.org.

The IPC said it was only in late 2012 that doctors diagnosed the cyclist with Conversion Disorder -- a psychiatric condition that can cause neurological symptoms such as numbness, blindness, paralysis

or fits without any apparent organic cause.

It is thought that symptoms can be triggered in response to stressful situations that affect a person's mental health.

"The IPC accepts therefore that Monique did not deliberately misrepresent her impairment when subject to classification evaluation on a number of occasions during her para-cycling career."

The IPC, which said that as a result "there is no need for any action to be taken against the athlete", said it would urge classification panels to increase efforts to check underlying impairment types, particularly where "clinical manifestation is confounded by pain".

## Swimming: Phelps enjoying retirement, no comeback plans



BERLIN (AFP) - Olympic swimming great Michael Phelps said Tuesday he was enjoying his retirement from the sport and had no future plans for a return to competition.

"I'm very happy with my life right now. I'm enjoying my retirement," the record 18-time

Olympic champion told German daily Die Welt during a visit to Berlin, adding that he was spending much of his time playing golf.

Asked whether his retirement was permanent, Phelps, who bowed out after becoming the most decorated Olympian in history at London 2012 where he took his overall medal haul to 22, replied: "I don't know. Right now, I'm happy with my life," preferring to talk about golf, which he labelled "the hardest sport I've ever done."

However, the 27-year-old insisted he wouldn't simply vanish from the scene.

"I will still be seen at the edge of the pool at the world championships, and I will of course watch the 2016 Olympics in Rio."

Phelps last month threw cold water on reports that he would come out of retirement with a view to swimming at the 2016 Games.

## Football: Iran end Qatar's World Cup finals hopes

DOHA (AFP) - Iran boosted their chances of clinching an automatic berth from Asia at next year's World Cup finals with a 1-0 win over Qatar in their crucial qualifying game here on Tuesday.

Iranian-Dutch striker Reza Nouri struck the vital goal in the 66th minute to end 2022 World Cup hosts Qatar's hopes of reaching the finals.

It was the first time Iran had beaten Qatar in four qualifying matches for the Brazil tournament.

Their three previous matches, including two in the third and penultimate phase of qualifying, had ended in draws.

Tuesday's victory took Iran to 10 points in group A, and with two more games in hand, the Asian giants look set for their fourth appearance in the World Cup finals.

Qatar's already slim hopes of qualifying for football's show-

piece event depended on a victory over Iran, and for the better part of the first half they appeared on course with speedy moves that occasionally caught the Iranians napping.

The match was played against the backdrop of political tensions over Qatar and Iran's role in the Syrian crisis, but fans, including several hundred expat Iranians, were generally well behaved.

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## NBA: LeBron sparks Heat against Spurs for crown



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (R), LeBron James (2nd R), Chris Bosh (back C) and his son Jackson look on as Ray Allen holds the Eastern Conference championship trophy after they defeated the Indiana Pacers during Game 7

MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James has the chance for revenge against the team that spoiled his first trip to the NBA Finals when the Miami Heat meet the San Antonio Spurs in this year's championship series starting Thursday.

James, a four-time NBA Most Valuable Player, will lead defending champion Miami into the best-of-seven showdown with the veteran Spurs, who won five titles from 1999 through 2007 but have not returned to the NBA Finals since.

"They have got a bunch of Hall of Famers, so I look forward to the challenge," James said.

"This is an opportunity for us again to be able to win a championship. I have a lot of work to still do, but it's a great thing to be in this position."

James, likely destined for the Basketball hall of Fame himself, first reached the NBA Finals with Cleveland in 2007, when the Spurs swept the Cavaliers to claim the crown.

Three years later, James took his talents to Miami to play alongside Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh and the Heat have reached the NBA Finals ever since, losing to Dallas in 2011 before beating Oklahoma City last year to give "King" James his first NBA crown.

"Our team is more experienced," James said. "My Cleveland team, we were very young and we went up against a very experienced, well-coached team. And they took advantage of everything that we did."

The Spurs have not sat on their laurels, either, although they will have been off 10 days before the opener since sweeping Memphis in the Western Conference final while Indiana took the Heat to seven games in the East final.

French playmaker Parker, the 2007 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player, said the rest will help coach Gregg Popovich's bruised squad heal, especially big man Tim Duncan and Argentine guard Manu Ginobili.

Six years after winning his first title, Parker hungers for another.

"It's an unbelievable feeling because it's really hard to go to The Finals, to win a championship. I was 21 when I won my first one, and you think it's easy and you're going to go back every year."

"Every team wants to beat you, and that's why it makes it even more special to go back after all those years playing at a high level with the same coach, with the same big three."

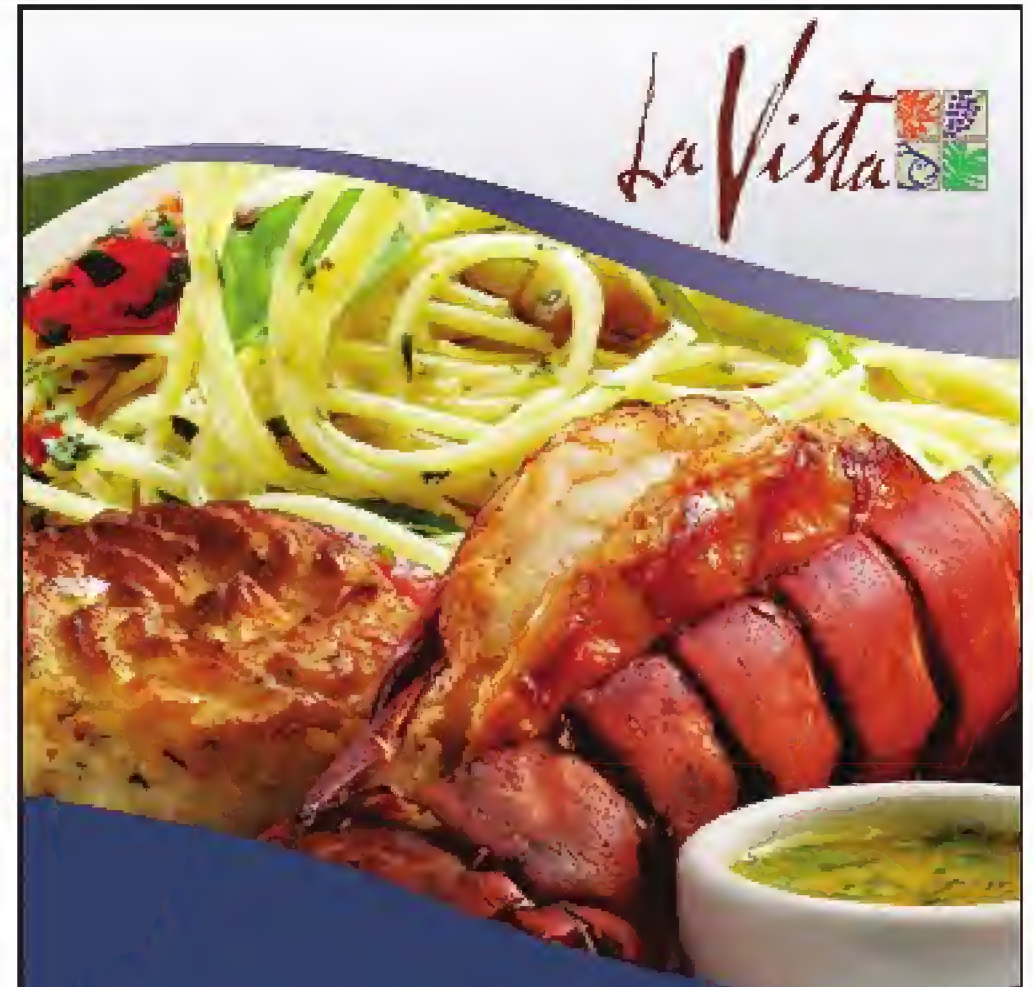
The Heat went a league-best 66-16 this season to earn a home-court edge, including a 27-game win streak, the second-longest in NBA history. The Spurs went 58-24.

Miami boasts James, Wade and Bosh while the Spurs are led by Parker, Ginobili and Duncan, a three-time NBA Finals Most Valuable Player who averaged 17.8 points and 9.9 rebounds a game. He seeks a sixth career NBA crown.

Wade and Bosh have struggled at times in the playoffs but they will need to be on their game to face the challenge San Antonio provides.

"Obviously we're a much better team when we have everyone clicking at the same time. That's obvious," James said. "We've had more games where everyone was clicking than not so."

Miami won both regular-season meetings of the clubs but neither provided true insight into how the teams match up. Duncan, Parker and Ginobili were benched by Popovich for the game in Miami, a move that brought a \$250,000 fine from the NBA, and the Heat benched James and Wade for the rematch in Texas.



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Teahupoo Reef (AFP) : US Garrett McNamara (L) and US Mark Healey (R) compete during a free session of surf tow in, in the southern Pacific ocean island of Tahiti, French Polynesia, on June 1, 2013 in Teahupoo.

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